Message Text

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DRAFTED BY CU/EA:MZINOMAN:NN APPROVED BY CU/EA:RNICHOLS EA/PRCM - J.TAYLOR (SUBST) L/ECP - EMAURER (SUBST) CU/ARTS - P.SOLMSSEN (SUBST) CU - MR. HITCHCOCK (INFO)

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R 282307Z JAN 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION - POSSIBLE EXTENSION

- 1. DURING STOPOVER IN SAN FRANCISCO ENROUTE TO WASHINGTON, LIAISON OFFICE CHIEF, HUANG CHEN, GAVE INDICATIONS TO PERSISTENT CITY LEADERS THAT PRC MIGHT BE WILLING TO EXTEND ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT STAY IN US TO ALLOW FOR SAN FRANCISCO SHOWING. ON THIS BASIS, CU/EA ON JAN 28 CALLED IN PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CHI-MEI TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER PRC POSITION ON THIS MATTER HAD CHANGED.
- 2. HSIEH SAID THAT HUANG HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY MAYOR AND OTHER LEADING SAN FRANCISCO PERSONALITIES CONCERNING EXTENSION AND HAD REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS GOVERNMENT IN PEKING ON THIS MATTER. HSIEH ASKED WHAT STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION WAS ON THIS ISSUE. DEPARTMENT OFFICERREPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD PREVIOUS PRC CONCERN WITH CONDITION OF OBJECTS, BUT IF CHINESE MADE DECISION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ALLOW EXTENSION, DEPARTMENT IN PRINCIPLE WOULD WELCOME

THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALLOW MORE AMERICANS TO VIEW THIS SIGNIFICANT EXHIBITION. HSIEH NOTED THAT IF THE EXTENSION WERE AGREED TO, NEGOTIATIONS AMENDING OR EXTENDING THE AGREEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD. HSIEH CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF PRC DECISION.

COMMENT:

DIFFICULT TO SPECULATE AS TO LIKELIHOOD OF PRC SHIFT ON THIS MATTER, BUT FACT THAT THEY HAVE AGREED TO RECONSIDER MAY INDICATE FLEXIBILITY. KISSINGER

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